

ARTICLE III. FIREARMS

Sec. 7.8-46. Legislative findings; purpose and intent.

Connecticut General Statute xxxx charges Boards of Selectmen with the responsibility to “promote peace, safety, good government and welfare of the municipality and its inhabitants.” The Board of Selectmen believes that the misuse of firearms by individuals who are not properly trained and qualified to use them can endanger public health and safety, and that safe storage practices are essential to public welfare. The Board recommends securing firearms and ammunition in a manner that will prevent unauthorized access when not in use, preferably in a locked gun safe or similar enclosure.

It is found that the use of Firearms in the Town of Weston for Residential Target Practice in light of the town’s growing population and diminishing open space, endangers the health and safety of the town's residents. Accordingly, it is found necessary to the general welfare of the town and its residents that the use of Firearms in the town be regulated and controlled, so that the health and safety of the town's residents may be protected.

Sec. 7.8-47. Definitions.

For the purposes of this article, certain words are defined as follows:

Firearm: shall have the same meaning as that provided under state law.

Machine Gun: shall have the same meaning as that provided under state law.

Assault Weapon: shall have the same meaning as that provided under state law.

Landowner: means the legal or beneficial owner of a parcel of land, or a tenant of such owner, or an authorized agent or invited guest of such owner or of such tenant, or a member of the Immediate Family of such owner or tenant, or any other person in possession of a parcel of land by legal right.

Immediate family: shall include the spouse or children of such owner or tenant.

Residential Target Practice: means shooting at a fixed object in a place zoned as residential in the zoning regulations of the town of Weston. Trapshooting, skeet shooting and shooting at sporting clays with shotguns, in which clay targets are thrown to simulate birds in flight are permissible exclusively at the Weston Field Club and the Weston Gun Club.

Sec. 7.8-48. Prohibition

(a) No person shall discharge any Machine Gun or Assault Weapon in the town of Weston.

(b) No person shall discharge any Firearm for Residential Target Practice in the town of Weston except for the following:

(1) A Landowner on his or her property who has received a Residential Target Practice permit from the chief of police of the town of Weston and who has taken necessary precautions to insure that any bullet, pellet, or projectile is confined strictly to said Landowner's property;

(2) Any State or Federal officer authorized to enforce criminal law, or a member of the armed forces of the United States or of the State of Connecticut, or an authorized messenger or bank guard, and only when such person is acting in the performance of his or her duties as such; or

(3) Any person, when acting to defend himself or herself or a third person from what he or she reasonably believes to be the use or imminent use of physical force.

(c) No person under the age of sixteen (16) years shall discharge any firearm anywhere in the town of Weston, except that persons between the ages of twelve (12) years and sixteen (16) years may discharge a firearm for Residential Target Practice pursuant to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, provided that such firearm is discharged in the presence of and under the supervision of the person's parent, legal guardian, school or camp official.

Sec. 7.8-49. Application for permit

(a) Any person wishing to apply for a permit under 7.8-48(b) (1) shall fill out and submit an application provided by the chief of police of the town of Weston.

(b) No such permit for Residential Target Practice shall be issued unless the applicant proves to the satisfaction of the chief of police of the town of Weston the following:

(1) that the applicant has passed the Connecticut Conservation Education firearms safety course or the equivalent or is the holder of a valid pistol permit issued by the state Department of Public Safety. Production by the applicant of a certificate of passage of such course or a copy of such original permit shall be proof of the same; and

(2) that the applicant has constructed a backstop which will confine any bullet, pellet or projectile strictly to the Landowner's property.

Sec. 7.8-50. State and federal regulations applicable.

Nothing herein shall be construed to permit the use, possession or discharge of any firearm for any purpose otherwise prohibited or regulated under any statute or regulation of the State of Connecticut or any state agency or the United States Government.

Sec. 7.8-51. Storage.

No person shall store or keep any Firearm on any premises under his or her control within the Town of Weston unless such person keeps the Firearm in a securely locked box constructed of

steel or similar material. The foregoing shall not apply at any time during which such person carries the Firearm on his or her person or within such close proximity thereto that he or she can readily retrieve and use it as if carried on his or her person.

Sec. 7.8-52. Penalty

Any person who violates the provisions of this article shall be subject to a fine of two-hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) for each such violation. This penalty shall apply to the parent or legal guardian of any person who violates the provisions of section 7.8-48(b).